



Sights, Sounds & Seasons

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Sights, Sounds & Seasons

When a new season appears, nothing can hold back the **signs**. In the spring time we see blossoming flowers, birds singing, leaves on the trees, longer days and temperature changes.

In the autumn, leaves fall off the trees and there is less daylight than we had in the summer.

When a new season comes, the signs are everywhere and people receive benefits in certain seasons.

The farmer can reap **harvest** in a particular season that he cannot reap in the middle of winter.



The purpose of this hope building article is to encourage you to see that we are living in the season of **God's grace** and favour, and that His hand is reaching out to give us the blessings and answers to prayer that we need, so that we can bring hope to those in our world.

Hindsight is great but it's not really going to help us, except we learn from past mistakes.

I heard about a man, who got on the wrong plane in America and travelled for hours, and then had to wait a day or two before he could get back.

Hindsight would tell him 'I should have paid more attention as to where I was going'. Many people drift through life and end up on the **wrong path** and it can take them years to get back on course.

Think of the people who have developed wrong relationships, who have bought the wrong property or car and it has cost them dearly, financially. Even people who have married the wrong partner and their lives have been sad and miserable.

We were travelling in America, and deep in conversation, when we suddenly realised we were on a major interstate that goes for miles without an exit, and we had to travel in the wrong direction. It took us a long time to get **back on course**.

The good news is that God desires to bring us back on course, and so He is bringing new light.

He is giving us **insight** which shows us how to make the right choices in advance.

Song of Solomon 2 v 11-12 says 'The winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land'.

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***We are living in a new season
and hear a new sound of hope.***

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When it's a new season, we will hear a **new sound**.

I believe if we **listen** with our hearts open, we will hear the Holy Spirit saying to us 'there's more to your life than you're presently enjoying, you can have the assurance of eternal life, you can have the insight to make the right divine connections and relationships, you can have the release of the necessary finance to meet your needs'.

This is a new season. **2 Peter 1 v 3** says that God has already given us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who has called us to glory and virtue. Read that chapter, study it and new faith and hope will arise.

We are living in a new season and hear a new sound of hope. The sound of the singing birds, the sound of new guidance and light, and the sound of divine connections, will help us **go forward** and fulfil the great call of God.

To empower others to be a blessing to those who are stuck in sadness, depression and disappointments, we can lift them up and bring them out into a new season, so their lives take on **purpose** and meaning.

Be encouraged through **Deuteronomy 8 v 18** and **Psalms 1 v 3**, especially if you face financial challenges.

Look at 1 Thessalonians 1 v 8 when Paul was speaking to the church he said 'From you sounded out the word of the Lord'.

These people had come through great trials, afflictions and persecution. Yet in the midst of it, they had hope, **good news** and faith, spreading through their witness. Even in the midst of a bad time we can enjoy the new season of God's favour upon us.

We need to ask ourselves 'are we heeding what we are hearing?' That this is a day of grace and favour when new doors are opening, and what was impossible before is now **possible**.



Luke 17 v 21 reminds us that the kingdom of God is within us. Since we received Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, we now have His very life within us. His kingdom, His insight, His wisdom, His faith and His power.

We don't need to look elsewhere, we have it within us. Start to use what you have within you, speak hope to people, speak life, do the little things that make people's lives better, add value to others and it will come back to you.

Everything that is against us is inferior to what is for us, and 'If God be for us, who can be against us?' **Romans 8 v 31**.

David said in **Psalms 94 v 17** 'Unless the Lord had been my help, my soul would soon have settled in silence'.

If we meditate on all the bad things that are happening within the world, and allow them to get into our hearts and minds and take root, it will rob us of power. It will take away the sights and sounds that bring us into a new season.

God wants to bring us out of the past season where we may have struggled with hurts, disappointments and unfair treatment.

He wants to lift us and say 'Look forward, the Lord is on your side, expect new doors to open, expect insight'.

Don't just look back in hindsight, God wants to bring us all forward into a new day.

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When I was around 12-years-old I used to cycle with my brother to prayer meetings. Coming home at night it was dark, but there was a little dynamo which was connected to the wheel of the bicycle, and it gave light as long as we kept moving forward.

1 Thessalonians 5 v 5 reminds us that we are sons of light. We don't belong in the darkness. When we are born again of the Holy Spirit, we become children of light.

He guides us into all truth, and therefore we have **guidance** that the world does not have because we have the kingdom of God within us.

I have experienced this myself in conducting missions in Africa, Italy and Romania, while ministering in Germany, Sweden and different parts of the world.

The guidance of the Lord and **divine connections** are priceless.

One person in Italy was a key to open the door to many leaders, so we could unite together and reach communities and cities.

God has the right connections and the guidance that we need. **John 16 v 13** speaks of the Holy Spirit, who shows us things to come.

The Holy Spirit is given to bring **insight** and guidance so that we don't have to walk alone.

Ephesians 5 v 8 tells us that we are to walk as children of light. We are not walking as people who only rely on hindsight and full of regret.

We have all made mistakes and taken wrong turns, but don't rely on hindsight, that's the hard way, rely on insight.

Know in advance what to do. There is a very interesting portion of scripture which talks about the children of Issachar in **1 Chronicles 12 v 32**. It says that they had understanding of the times and were able to tell Israel what they ought to do.

We need to let faith arise. Faith is not just believing God's word, it is actually acting on what we believe.

James 2 v 18 says 'Show me your faith without your works and I will show you my faith by my works'.

We need to do all we can at this time. Make that phone call, invite that person to the meeting, send a text message with good news and encouragement.

Reach your neighbours, your friends, your family, even those who have hurt you. Start looking for ways to bless them, and if you do, it will release an amazing blessing in your life.

Remember **James 2 v 19-20** '...Even the demons believe and tremble'. Satan and his evil spirits know about the reality of God's word, love and power, but they don't walk in it.

They have turned away from the Lord. And so, we need to do the works. It is the person who does the works that will be blessed.

See **James 1 v 25** 'But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does'.

We need to be prepared for the new season. Just as the farmer. Whether it be spring or fall, he is always preparing for the next season to maximise the harvest.

Jesus said in **Matthew 9 v 38** 'Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into His harvest'.

The **harvest** of hurting people who are sometimes depressed, anxious, suffering from disease and broken relationships.

We are to be part of the answer for these people and we have been given light to **shine**.

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***Favour is manifested when
preparation and opportunity meet.***

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I heard about this little girl who asked her mother for an unusual Christmas present. She wanted a torch. On Christmas morning she opened the parcel and found the torch, but when she switched the torch on she said 'I can't see any light coming from this torch'. Her mother replied 'A torch is for using in the dark'.

The little girl said 'Ok mummy, let's find some darkness'. So it is with us today, we need to go out into the dark world and shine the light of the good news of the gospel.

Matthew 5 v 14 'You are the light of the world'. We are to be light to people. Remember when the new season appears, nothing can hold back the signs.

This is a new season, let's move out into it, not by feelings, as you may not feel able to do anything, but do it anyway, **step out!**

See **2 Corinthians 5 v 7** 'For we live by faith, not by sight'. Favour is manifested when preparation and opportunity meet.

Joel 2 v 28 says 'And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh'. In verse 12 He exhorts us to turn to the Lord with all of our hearts, to **seek Him** with fasting and prayer, then we will realise that we are living in those days right now.

When we are ready for the new season, the signs will appear and our lives will **change**. We will make a difference to our generation.

1 John 1 v 5 reminds us that 'God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all'. When we walk close to the Lord by faith we will have the guidance to do the right thing. Doors will open, when we refuse negativity and walk in faith.

Genesis 8 v 22 reminds us that there will always be a seedtime and harvest, while the earth remains.

Things are moving. Let's get with the season that we are in and expect good things to happen every single day! What kind of sound are you making?

We are exhorted to make a sound of praise in **Psalms 100 v 1** 'Make a joyful noise unto the Lord'.



Psalm 98 v 4 'Make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise'. We are not to have a sound of murmuring, complaining and negativity, but a sound of thanksgiving and a sound of praise.

Ecclesiastes 3 v 1 says 'To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven'.

Remember, that we are chosen of God. Every human being is on earth with a purpose, the high calling of Almighty God.

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Let's realise our potential and move into the new season that God has called us to.

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Most people unfortunately don't realise and don't fulfil it, therefore, they miss His purpose.

John 15 v 16 says that He has chosen and ordained us to go and bring forth fruit, and to bring forth the good news of salvation to others in our hurting communities.

Even when we know we are in the right season, if we don't prepare we can miss the harvest. Let's realise our **potential** and move into the new season that God has called us to.

Being brought up on a farm, some of the fields had not been properly prepared to produce a good harvest. Seeing one large field produce after it had major work done, serves as a powerful reminder as to the potential we all have, if we allow the Holy Spirit to prepare us for **maximum** harvest in our lives and families.

Let me give you key points:

1. Sights

I remember seeing zebras running in the fields near Nairobi, Kenya. You see different sights when you are in different places. You see oranges growing in warmer climates that you wouldn't see in Ireland.

We expect to see **manifestation** of God's love and favour because we are in God's kingdom. We live there, so what are you seeing?

Are you focused on the wrong thing? **Acts 4 v 20** says 'We cannot but speak the things we have seen and heard'. They were experiencing the new season of anointing and blessing.

One of my favourite verses is **1 Peter 3 v 10** 'He that would love life and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil and his lips that they speak no guile'.

What are you seeing? What are you focused on today? You can change your focus to the new season of God's promises and God's provision that He has given you already. Count your **blessings**, not your burdens.

In **Genesis 13 v 14-15** God told Abraham to go out and look north, south, east and west. He said 'All that you see I will give it to you'.

We need to have a **vision** for the plan of God and His blessings promised to us, and what has become available through the cross of Christ, His death and resurrection.

Abraham looked at the stars and God said 'If you are able to number them, so shall thy seed be'. We need to be looking in the right direction.

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Count your blessings, not your burdens.

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2. Sounds

What are you hearing? It is very important what we listen to. Are we just listening to the news or the negative people around us, or are we listening to the voice of the Holy Spirit?

Acts 2 v 4 says the Holy Spirit came on that day and there was a **sound** that came from heaven of a rushing mighty wind. They began to speak in the heavenly language, as the Holy Spirit gave them utterance.

He promised in the last days to pour His spirit out and we are now in the last days. We are to expect to hear the sound of the spirit moving, revival, good reports of the lost being found, the sick being healed and people being filled with the Holy Spirit.

What are you hearing? Don't listen to the negative voice! **Mark 4 v 24** says 'Take heed what you hear'.

1 Chronicles 13 v 3 shows a picture when the people of God did not have His presence and were living in a time of spiritual drought.

The ark of God had been stolen and it says 'The people did not enquire after the ark in the days of Saul'. In other words, there was no desire to seek the presence of God when Saul was king.

Saul was a picture of human ability and reasoning. He was very tall with great ability, but he didn't bring the **presence of God**.

When his day passed, a new season came and the people desired to bring back the ark. They did bring it back and the presence of God was returned to the people.

We need to have a hunger and desire to hear what God is saying. To move with Him, consistently seeking Him. Don't rely on feelings or what people say, but walking by **faith**.

I remember when we went to Burundi, thousands had been gathering and **praying** for the huge mission we had there.

The pastors and the churches were united for a great time, and we saw a move of the Holy Spirit. Tens of thousands gathered, and so many came to Christ in a country that had suffered so much.

Wherever there is a hunger and **desire** people will start to hear what the Lord is saying, there will be a new season come forth.

Negativity is a terrible thing. The following gives insight to it's nature. It is an expression of lie based believing, and it reveals an acceptance of defeat and failure. It restricts us to natural ability and ties the hands of God.

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Negativity complains and blames others for our circumstances. It always justifies itself by saying 'I have a right to feel this way because I have been treated badly'.

It attracts the wrong kind of friends, negative, hard-hearted and judgemental people, with bad attitudes who blame others. It **distorts** the truth and holds to false perception.

When we buy the lie we are really depositing in the bank of bad harvest for the future. It makes unfair statements and harsh **judgements**. It robs us of the good life.

Negativity hinders the work of the Holy Spirit. It **sabotages** our present and future.

We don't need to be involved in negativity, and always talking about the hurts we've had, and the bad things that have happened. We hear this on the news, we hear this from politicians, and we hear it even in church life unfortunately.

But there is no place for negativity, it is a **new season**.



3. Seasons

What are you doing in the new season? When the harvest time comes the farmers are in the field. Jesus said in **John 4 v 35** 'Do you not say, 'There are still four months and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!'

It's harvest time so let's get in the field. What does that mean?

That means we go to the broken, hurting people. We start speaking hope, faith and love.

Instead of the negativities of the past, we seek to heal broken relationships and offences, and bring **reconciliation** where there has been damage or total breakdown.

It's harvest time, all things are possible.

In a harvest time there are beautiful new colours. God is a God of variety. All you have to do is look at the flowers, the trees, and the scenery.

He is a God of favour and mercy.



Let us enjoy the creation that God has given us! In **Acts 10 v 38** 'Jesus went about doing good and healing all that were oppressed of the devil, for God was with Him'.

As people of God, we have been empowered to do the same thing. In **John 9 v 4** Jesus said 'I must work the works of Him that sent me while it is day: the night is coming when no one can work'.

A season will only last for a **short time**. We will have the chance to bring home flowers to our wives, or say encouraging words to our children for a limited time.

Children and young people, you only have a short time to add value to your parents. To **bless** the leaders of your church, and to speak well of those in authority, even though they may have faults.

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Let's not be people of negativity, but people of hope, and of faith. If we miss the season, we lose the harvest.

It is the season to reach our generation and to impact future generations. Don't focus on the negative, this is a time of **grace** and favour.

The time is now, so let us help others to come into the new season, and discover the **dawning** of a new day in their lives.



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